

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 177887
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ARDAY:TH
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.
NSC:WQUANDT
P:PCHABIB
S/S-O: TMARTIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 177887

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FO, AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER

PLEASE CONVEY URGENTLY TO PRESIDENT ASSAD THE FOLLOWING
MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER: BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

AS I INDICATED IN MY LAST MESSAGE, I WANTED TO BE IN TOUCH
WITH YOU PRIOR TO SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS, TO
SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF MY THOUGHTS REGARDING PEACE NEGOTIATION PROSPECTS. I DEEPLY APPRECIATE YOUR READINESS TO
MEET WITH THE SECRETARY, WHO WILL BE CONSULTING ON MY
BEHALF WITH YOU AND OTHER LEADERS ON CARRYING FORWARD THE
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SEARCH FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE.

IN PARTICULAR, THE SECRETARY WILL WANT TO WORK WITH YOU
TOWARD THE EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEGOTIATING PROCESS
THAT WILL COMMENCE WITH RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.
ON THIS VISIT HE WILL WANT TO HEAR ANY THOUGHTS YOU HAVE
DEVELOPED ON HOW TO RESOLVE THE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS RE-

LATING TO CONVENING AND ORGANIZING THE CONFERENCE, PARTICULARLY THE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION QUESTION THAT YOU AND I DISCUSSED WHEN WE MET IN GENEVA. HE WILL ALSO BE BRINGING SOME IDEAS ON A FRAMEWORK OF GENEVA THAT WE HAVE DEVELOPED THROUGH OUR CONSULTATIONS, AND HE WILL WANT TO EXPLORE THESE WITH YOU.

I HAVE NOW HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH ALL THE PRINCIPAL LEADERS DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, AND ALL HAVE SAID THEY WANT VERY MUCH TO REACH A FINAL AND COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. TO THAT END, I BELIEVE THERE IS A COMMON DESIRE TO RESUME THE NEGOTIATIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. THIS LEADS ME TO HOPE THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL INDEED BE POSSIBLE THIS FALL.

I REALIZE THAT THERE REMAIN WIDE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PARTIES ON THE MOST IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. I APPRECIATE ALSO THAT YOU WOULD HAVE HOPED THAT, PRIOR TO ENTERING NEGOTIATIONS, WE COULD ACHIEVE A MAXIMUM MEASURE OF AGREEMENT ON THESE ISSUES, IN PARTICULAR ON THE QUESTION OF ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORY AND ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. ISRAEL, FOR ITS PART, WOULD WISH FOR ADVANCE AGREEMENT ON THE NATURE OF THE PEACE TO FOLLOW A SETTLEMENT. AS YOU KNOW FROM OUR TALKS, I TOO

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HAVE FELT IT DESIRABLE TO ACHIEVE AS MUCH AGREEMENT AS POSSIBLE BEFORE GENEVA IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THE PROSPECTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE. WE SHALL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION, AND SECRETARY VANCE WILL WANT TO PURSUE THIS QUESTION FURTHER IN HIS TALKS WITH YOU. I HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT THESE PROFOUND CORE ISSUES MUST IN THE LAST ANALYSIS BE RESOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS WHICH RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WILL SET IN MOTION.

THE UNITED STATES WILL BE PREPARED TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THIS PROCESS, WHICH WE SEE AS BEING CONDUCTED BY VARIOUS MEANS, INCLUDING TO A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE THROUGH OUR CONTINUING MEDIATION EFFORTS BOTH WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CONFERENCE AND BILATERALLY. I WANT TO ASSURE YOU, IN THIS RESPECT, THAT MY VIEWS ON SOLUTIONS TO THE SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS REMAIN AS I DESCRIBED THEM TO YOU IN OUR TALKS IN GENEVA AND IN A NUMBER OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS I HAVE MADE OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS. THE U.S. WILL BE GUIDED BY THESE VIEWS IN THE EXERCISE OF ITS MEDIATION ROLE.

THE UNITED STATES CAN BE MOST EFFECTIVE IN THE CONTEXT OF
AN ACTIVE NEGOTIATION, WHEN OUR ABILITY TO INFLUENCE
EVENTS WILL BE MARKEDLY ENHANCED. FOR THIS REASON AS
WELL, I BELIEVE IT TO BE IN THE INTEREST OF ACHIEVING A
JUST AND LASTING PEACE SETTLEMENT FOR A NEGOTIATING

PROCESS TO BE GOTTEN UNDER WAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,
BEGINNING WITH THE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

SECRETARY VANCE WILL BE SPEAKING WITH MY FULL AUTHORITY,
AND I WILL BE IN DAILY TOUCH WITH HIM AS HE UNDERTAKES HIS
IMPORTANT MISSION. UNLIKE HIS FIRST TRIP, WHICH WAS
PRIMARILY DESIGNED AS A FIRST EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN
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PROCESS OF ACHIEVING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ARAB GOVERN-
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I ASK FOR YOUR CONFIDENCE IN ME AS WE PURSUE, BECAUSE IT
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I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM SECRETARY VANCE THE
RESULTS OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH YOU, DISCUSSIONS WHICH I
AM SURE WILL BE MARKED BY THE SPIRIT OF FRANKNESS AND
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OF PEACE, THAT CHARACTERIZED OUR TALKS TOGETHER.

WITH WARM GOOD WISHES, JIMMY. VANCE

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TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

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FOL RPT STATE 177887 ACTION DAMASCUS 29 JUL 77 QUOTE

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FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

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WITH WARM GOOD WISHES, JIMMY. VANCE

UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

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Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PDEV, PPDC, PBOR, SY, US, XF, (CARTER, JIMMY), (VANCE, CYRUS R), (ASSAD), (ASSAD, HAFIZ)
To: DAMASCUS
Type: TE
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